



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coronado National Forest
Douglas Ranger District

1192 W. Saddleview Rd.
Douglas, Arizona 85607
Phone (520) 364-3468
FAX (520) 364-6667

File Code: 1950/2400

Date: October 26, 2011

SCOPING NOTICE

RUSTLER PARK CAMPGROUND FIRE SALVAGE PROJECT

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Coronado National Forest:

I am writing today to let you know about a proposed project to reduce safety hazards posed by about 75 acres of dead and damaged trees left standing after the Horseshoe 2 Fire, which burned in spring of 2011 in the Chiricahua Mountains on the Douglas Ranger District. Moderate- to high-intensity wildland fire affected the Rustler Park Campground (Campground), shown on the enclosed map, causing significant damage and mortality in stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*), and white fir (*Abies concolor*). Affected areas are located within Section 4, Township 18 South, Range 30 East; and Section 33, Township 17 South, Range 30 East.

Fire-damaged and destroyed trees that remain at the Campground are unstable, and falling limbs, branches, and other woody debris threaten the safety of casual visitors, recreational users, and Forest Service staff. To improve conditions for recreational use and reduce the threat of injury or death, the hazards posed by these trees must be mitigated. To accomplish this, trees are proposed to be felled under controlled circumstances in a secured area in order to reduce the potential for collateral damages.

We are about to begin a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposed project by defining the scope of the impacts analysis. During scoping, we ask the public to help us identify issues and concerns related to the proposed action. Public input is vital because it is integrated into our environmental impacts analyses and often used in the development of mitigation and alternatives to the proposed action. Information on how you can comment on this proposal or obtain further information is provided below.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest proposes to remove hazardous trees at and near the Campground using timber-harvesting methods and machinery such as harvesters, feller-bunchers, skidders, forwarders, and yarders. Because of the size of the trees in the project area, hand-felling by chainsaw would be necessary. No new roads would be constructed to accomplish harvest and removal. Salvage operations would require the use of landings, decks, and skid trails. Dead and standing trees would be felled, skidded to a landing, limbed, bucked, loaded onto a log truck and hauled to a mill for processing. Remaining residual slash and woody debris would be piled and either chipped or pile-burned, the latter under appropriate weather conditions in an environmentally acceptable location.

RECEIVED
COCHISE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2011 OCT 28 P 2:45



Soil compaction will be minimized by confining activities to disturbed areas, such as designated skid trails. Erosion control structures, such as water-bars, would be used to mitigate runoff and sedimentation, and Best Management Practices will be followed. After harvesting is completed, disturbed areas, such as skid trails, will be ripped and revegetated, as necessary. Adverse effects on the Federally listed (threatened) Mexican spotted owl will be avoided by scheduling the project activities outside the Mexican spotted owl breeding season, which is from March 1 through August 31.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The Coronado National Forest values public input in the NEPA review process. Your comments about this proposed action may be submitted to us in writing by U.S. mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery and electronic mail (email); and in person by visiting or telephoning the Douglas Ranger District. To be most useful to us during our impacts analysis, we encourage you to submit comments within 30 days of receiving this notice.

Our mailing address is given on the letterhead above, and facsimiles may be sent to (520) 364-6667. Please include your full name and address and project title (Rustler Park Fire Salvage) with your comments.¹ Electronic (email) comments may be submitted to us at comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us. Please submit email comments in any of the following ways: text of your email, in a word (.doc) attachment, or in rich-text format (.rtf), with "Rustler Park Fire Salvage" in the subject line.

Comments may be provided by calling (520) 364-3468 during regular business hours, which are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, or by scheduling a personal visit to the District Office using the same telephone number.

For additional information concerning the proposal and this notice, please feel free to contact me at the District Office, or Mr. Matthew Littrell on (928) 348-1960 and mlittrell@fs.fed.us. Questions about the NEPA review process may be directed to Forest NEPA Coordinator Andrea Campbell at (520) 388-8352 and awcampbell@fs.fed.us.

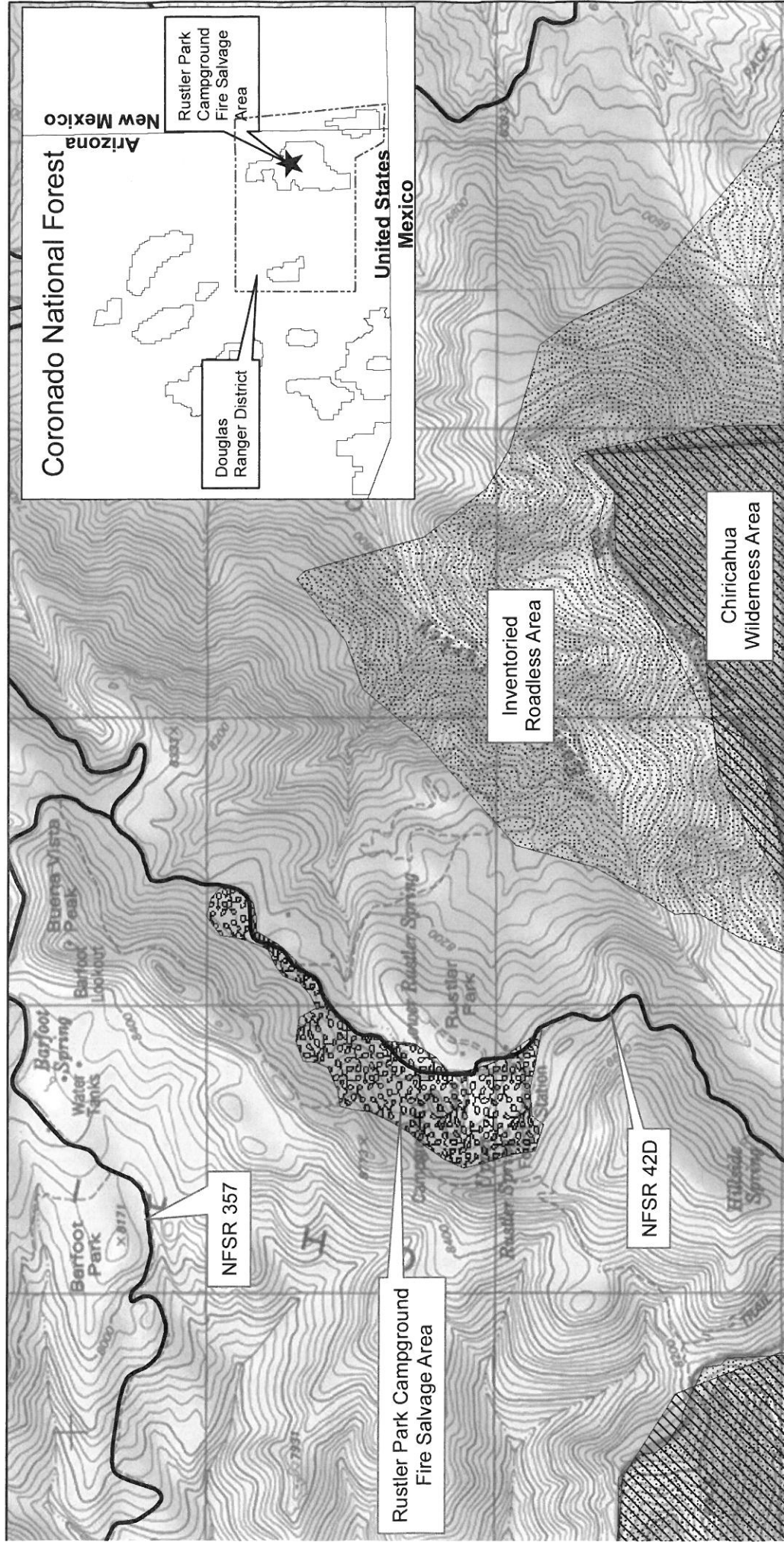
Thank you for your interest and participation in the activities of the Coronado National Forest.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM A. EDWARDS

¹ Comments and personal information associated with them, such as names and addresses, become part of the Project Record for this NEPA review. They may be made available to a third-party upon request under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Personally identifying information is protected by the Privacy Act. If you do not wish for your personal information to be released under the FOIA, you may choose not to include it with your comments. Or, you may request an exemption from FOIA with your comment submittal. Should you choose the latter, you will be informed by the Forest Service whether or not your request qualifies for an exemption. If it does not, you may resubmit your comments without personal information.



Rustler Park Campground Fire Salvage **Section 4, Township 18 South, Range 30 East and** **Section 33, Township 17 South, Range 30 East** **Douglas Ranger District** **Coronado National Forest** **Cochise County, Arizona**

Legend

- Rustler Park Campground Fire Salvage Area
- National Forest System Road (NFSR)
- Chiricahua Wilderness Area
- Inventoried Roadless Area

The project area is not located in a Wilderness, Wilderness Study Area, National Recreation Area, Research Natural Area, or Inventoried Roadless Area.

MiMi Battin, GIS Specialist
 October 18, 2011



1:20,000



